1: Conzemius M-4, 5 (1921) 1932
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316 this is done by them in isolated cases only; they use a round, low bowl or *batea*, in which they place some of the auriferous sand together with some water. Then, whirling the *batea* rapidly, a feathery stream of mingled sand and water flows constantly over the edge. When the sand is nearly all exhausted, the bowl is filled again, and this process is repeated a number of times. Finally a little deposit of grains of gold will be found at the bottom.

These Indians have no name in their own language for either gold or silver, but they call these precious metals "yellow money" and "white money" respectively. Their word for money (M. and T.: *lala;* P. and U.: *lihwan*) might have designated gold originally, or perhaps metal in general. Still, there is a native name for iron or steel (M. and T.: *silak;* P. and U.: *yasama*).

381 439 411 Cheap bracelets, earrings, and finger rings of foreign origin are now very common among both tribes. The iron and steel objects, which are now in universal use on the coast, have not been cast or forged locally, but have been obtained in trade. Harpoons are made from our common triangular files with the aid of another file. This process is very slow and tedious. The iron points or "heads" for arrows and spears are generally made from old cask hoops or from other scrap iron.

STONEWORK

324 METATES.—Stonework is practically limited to the manufacture of crude metates or maize grinders (M.: *walpa-akbaya;* T., P.: *ki-watak;* U.: *ki-tiknaka*) which are used for grinding maize, cacao, or other grains or fruits. They are merely plane slabs of a tufflike rock with a slightly concave grinding surface, on which the grains are crushed with the aid of a handle or metlapil (M.: *walpa-mihta;* S.: *ki-mak*). These crude metates are made with the aid of a hard blackish stone chisel (M.: *kwa-siksa;*[37] T., P.: *pransa, paransa;* U.: *ki-tisna*).

324 172 ANTIGUALES.—Elaborate metates, cylindrical bowls and mortars of a hard granitelike material are occasionally found on the Mosquito Coast. Isolated specimens of these articles are met with, but as a rule they are found in deposits from miniature size, perhaps children's toys, to giant sizes for ceremonial purposes. These objects exist in all stages of manufacture, but the finished product is now very scarce, having either been taken away or broken.

Such old sites or "antiguales," as they are known locally, are especially numerous in Honduras between the rivers Plátano and Paulaya; they are found generally on some elevated spot within a

[37] At Ciudad Antigua, in the Nicaraguan department of Nueva Segovia, I heard this tool called "cusbul" (= *kwa-bul*) by the Spanish-speaking inhabitants. In the Miskito language *siksa* means "black," while *bul* is "mottled" or "speckled."

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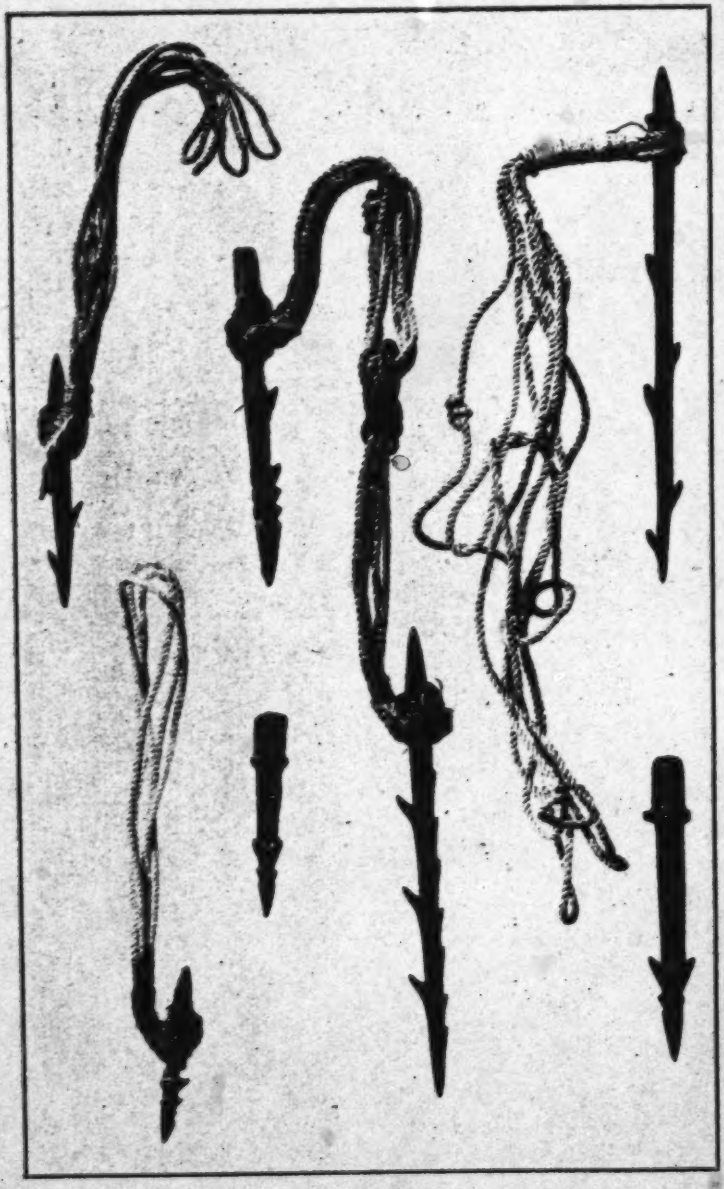

HARPOONS MADE FROM TRIANGULAR FILES.
Mikiito.

[p. 54 F]

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(*Ananas sativus;* M.: *pihto;* S.: *masa, masahti*),[46] papaws or papayas (*Carica papaya* L.; M.: *twas, tawas;* S.: *ulmak, ulumak*), avocados or alligator pears (*Persea gratissima* Gaertn.; M.: *sikya;* S.: *sikya, sariñ*), soursops (*Anona muricata* L.; M.: *dwarsap;* S.: *sapot*), guavas (*Psidium guajava* L.; M.: *sikra;* S.: *burimak*), cashews (*Anacardium occidentale* L.; M. and S.: *kasaa*), and watermelons (*Citrullus vulgaris* Schrad.; M. and S.: *rayapisa*). Spanish plums (*Spondias purpurea* L.), although apparently indigenous, are rarely found, and their Indian name *ploms* comes from the English language.

The most important fruit trees of foreign origin are: Citrus fruits (oranges, lemons, sweet limes, sour limes, shaddocks, grapefruits, citrons), mangoes (*Mangifera indica* L.), breadfruits (*Artocarpus communis* syn. *incisa*), tamarinds (*Tamarindus indica* L.), and rose apples (*Eugenia jambos* L.).

GARDENS.—Around their houses many Indians cultivate also a few fruit trees and other plants. The calabash tree (*Crescentia cujete* L.; M.: *kahmi;* S.: *sutak*) is very common in these gardens; it is esteemed for the very useful kitchen receptacles obtained from its fruit. A few bushes of cotton (*Gossypium peruvianum* Cav.; M.: *wahmuk;* S.: *wahmak*), chile peppers (*Capsicum* sp.; M.: *kuma;* S.: *anmak, añmak*) and annatto (*Bixa orellana* L.; M.: *aulala, tmariñ;* S.: *awal*) are found near every lodge. A number of flowers are also cultivated, as the African marigolds, purple and white four-o'clocks, and the crimson hibiscus.

FISHING AND FISHING IMPLEMENTS

A very large share of the food supply of these primitive Indians is obtained from the sea, the lagoons, and the rivers. Fishing is therefore an occupation wherein both tribes have attained an unusual degree of skill. The main implements used for this purpose are harpoons, fishhooks, nets, and bows and arrows.

JAVELIN.—The javelin or throwing spear (M.: *wañsku;* S.: *sukruk*) is used in the sea, lagoons, and larger rivers. It consists of a wooden staff, from 8 to 9 feet in length, in the front end of which a sharp barbed steel head has been inserted. The staff is of strong, slender, light wood, generally of a tree called "magaleta" (M.: *sihnak, sinak;* S.: *sina*); the Ulwa, however, use for this purpose the wood of a tree called by them *pan-kuba*, which is said to be superior to the above-mentioned species. The loosely fitting steel point is from 4 to 5 inches long and is made of an old file, wherein several series of double

[46] The old authors, Exquemelin (Engl. edit.: 251), Dampier (I, 9), and M. W. (308, 310), met this fruit among the Miskito during the latter part of the seventeenth century; in those days it was also cultivated by the aborigines of the Corn Islands (Exquemelin, Engl. edit.: 114).

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441 barbs have been made with the aid of another file. Previous to the introduction of iron and steel the Indians made their spear points of pointed and barbed pieces of bamboo. A cord about 50 feet in length is attached to the point, while the other end of it is wound round a long reel of light wood, which acts as a "bob" or float, and is stuck at the distal end of the staff. These Indians call the float *kunkun*, which name is also applied by the Sumu to the balsa tree (*Ochroma lagopus* Sw.), from which it is usually made. Sometimes the red cedar (*Cedrela* sp.) or the roots of the "bobwood" tree (*Anona palustris*) are employed for this purpose by the Miskito.

The javelin is used only for the larger fishes, such as the carplike snook (M. and S.: *mopi*) and the salmonlike tarpon (M. and S.: *tapam, tahpam*) which are frequently met with in the larger rivers.

226 Two men generally work together when fishing with this implement. The one in the bow of the boat signals his companion how to steer by motioning with the hand. They glide noiselessly over the water, and when within reach of a fish, that is, about 60 feet distant from it, the bowman stands up with the spear in his right hand and aims and throws at a single fish, which he may be unable to see through the thickness of water. The only thing visible is the fish's "wake," that is, the ripple produced on the surface of the water as he swims lazily along. By that the Indian guesses the species of the fish as well as the depth at which he swims under water. It may be 2 feet. The spear is thrown in such a manner that it strikes the water almost vertically; the Indians seldom miss, for they have practiced this sport from early childhood. Upon striking the fish, the cord unwinds; harpoon and reel become detached from the staff, but they are attached to each other by the cord. The reel acts like a float and points out the whereabouts of the prize; with its aid the latter is secured. When the fish is tired, it is drawn near the canoe, killed with a stick, and hauled in. Then the staff, which is also of floatable wood, is likewise caught.

At the beginning of the rainy season the Miskito also practice this sport at night, especially in the lagoons. At such places where the fresh water comes in contact with the sea water it blazes as the fish swims along, thus indicating the latter's presence.

On dark nights the fish is also speared with the aid of a pitch-pine torch which is held by a third man in the boat. The glare of the torch attracts the fish and enables the bowman to spy his prey, which is immediately transfixed by the harpoon. This sport of fishing with a torch is practiced chiefly in November and December.

[171] The Sumu seldom employ this fishing implement as it is of little use in the small rocky streams where the bulk of this tribe lives. On the other hand, many Creoles and Ladinos living on the coast have learned from the Indians how to handle it.

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They are caught with the hook or by diving after them; some Indians will also catch the sea turtles in this manner and bring them up in their hands, but this feat is attended with danger, from bites and sharp coral. The bocatora tortoise is speckled black and yellow and is found in the larger rivers only. It lays about 20 round eggs in the sand, silt, or even in stiff earth; the eggs are inclosed in a rough calcareous parchment and are considered a great delicacy.

LANCES.—Two varieties of long spears, with fixed points, are employed for striking fish. They are not thrown, but kept in the hand while striking. These implements are found chiefly among the river Indians, Miskito as well as Sumu. The thin, strong staff, which may be from 10 to 15 feet in length, is made from the stem of a tree called by the Ladinos "cacao" (M.: *sakalpihni;* S.: *babasnak*). Of these two implements the more common one (M.: *sihnak;* S.: *sukruk*) has a harpoonlike point, similar to that of the javelin or throwing spear. The other one (M. and S.: *daka*) is provided with a pointed piece of thick wire or some other metal, which looks like a nail; for that reason it is called "clavo" by the Ladinos, who also use it in fishing.

FISHHOOKS.—Fishing with the hook (M.: *kyul;* T., P.: *kuyul;* U.: *simin*) is done chiefly by the women, children, and old men. The line is made of silk-grass fiber (*Bromelia* sp.) and is dyed black with vegetable juices, so as to render it less conspicuous. The hooks are of foreign manufacture but in former days crooked bones were used for the purpose. The Indians bait them with worms, spiders, grasshoppers, or fruits (guavas, wild figs).

At certain times of the year when the fruits of the wild fig or of other trees growing along the edge of the river begin to drop, the Indians fish without any bait at all. They flick and cast their long line about, lashing the surface of the water, and letting it sink, presently raising it with a peculiar movement of the wrist. This noise is regarded by the fish as resulting from the dropping of overhanging fruits and they will greedily snap after them and then be caught by the hook.

FISHING NETS.—A small fishing net (M.: *ilis, tan;* T.: *wilino;* P.: *dus;* U.: *yano*), made of silk-grass fiber, is used by both Miskito and Sumu. With its aid they close the mouth of narrow creeks, in order to catch the fish trying to enter the main river. Wickham (b: 238; c: 203) already mentions the use of drag nets among the Ulwa of Rio Escondido; the Indians employed it in low water in the pools scattered among the bowlders or rocks in the rapids and falls.

The cast net and the seine have also been introduced recently among the Miskito. The former especially is becoming popular. Having the folded net in his hand, the Indian throws it like a lasso upon the water in such a manner that by a single cast it becomes suspended almost to its whole width, surprising and catching the

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kept in the hut for that purpose. When the Indians catch the palometa fish (M. and S.: *triru*), they return to the water with the bones and throw them in the same spot, believing that by so doing they will always be favored with good luck when fishing for palometa. In case a woman *enciente* eats this fish, however, it will not bite any more during that season.

HUNTING AND FIGHTING IMPLEMENTS

Weapons naturally play a great rôle among primitive people, for they are used to defend themselves against the wild animals of the forest as well as against their own kind, which is even more dangerous than the beasts of the jungle. Nowadays they are not used any longer in warfare, for the various tribes are at peace, but they still furnish the Indians with the means of procuring a large share of their food supply.

DEFENSIVE WEAPONS.—Defensive weapons have gone out of existence since intertribal wars have ceased, but in former days the Miskito employed round shields (*kabaika*) of light wood or of tapir hide. Armors of plaited reed are also reported; they were covered with jaguar skin and ornamented with feathers. The northern Miskito used a breastplate of twisted cotton like that of the Mexicans (Bancroft: I, 723).

BLOWGUN.—The blowpipe or blowgun is said to be still found among the Ulwa of Rio Escondido, but the present writer was unable to obtain any details pertaining to that arm. Lehmann (c: I, 503), however, gives the name *makar* (compare Bribri *mákol*) for the blowgun among the Ulwa of Rio Murra, a northern affluent of Rio Escondido. According to Bell (b: 232) the Indian children had little blowguns to blow little balls of black wax through, in order to kill wasps, butterflies, and small house lizards. They were made from a reed, called *brasirpi*, the joints of which are about 1½ feet in length.

The use of the blowgun as a hunting and fighting implement would necessarily point to an acquaintance with arrow poison. In fact, Benito Garret y Arlovi in a report from the year 1711 (Peralta, b: 59) states that some of the Miskito used arrow poison. Bancroft (I, 722–723) says that these Indians employed the juice of the manchineel tree (*Hippomane mancinella* L.) to poison arrows and darts, but he fails to indicate the source of his information. It is well known that the Chocó and Tule (Cuna, San Blas) Indians of Panama, like the Caribs of the Lesser Antilles, poisoned their arrows in former days by dipping them in the milky juice of that tree. I have not seen the tree in question on the Mosquito Coast, nor learned its native name; Ziock (69, 237), however, calls it *liwakumya* in the Miskito

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411 278 171 language, and gives this name also as that of an island among the Mosquito Keys.

The secretions from an indigenous pale greenish-blue frog (*Dendrobates tinctorius*) may also have been used as an arrow poison, as is done by several tribes of Colombia.

411 LANCES AND SPEARS.—Lances and spears, tipped with fishbones or with flint, were formerly used for hunting and fighting, but to-day they are employed exclusively in fishing. (See Fishing and Fishing Implements.) Ferdinand Columbus mentions these weapons and says that they were made of palm wood, black as coal and hard as horn, and pointed with the bones of fishes. The javelin or throwing spear is evidently the weapon mentioned in old Spanish documents under the name of "vara para tirar." According to Exquemelin (Engl. edit.: 114) lances of a fathom and a half in length and tipped with a crocodile tooth were one of the principal arms of the aborigines of the Corn Islands.

SLINGS.—Small slings (M.: *prâûprâûkya*) for throwing stones are sometimes employed to kill birds.

CLUBS.—Wooden clubs (M.: *dyara prukaya;* T.: *di bâûnin;* U.: *dibâûnaka*) jagged with alligator teeth constituted a dangerous weapon in former days, but they disappeared many years ago.

BOW AND ARROW.—Bow and arrow appear to have been the principal weapon of the tribes under consideration; still they are said to have been unknown to the natives of the Corn Islands, who apparently belonged to the Kukra, a subtribe of the Sumu (Exquemelin, Engl. edit.: 114). It is known, however, that the Kukra living on the shores of Bluefields Lagoon possessed arrows, and a description thereof has been left to us by the same author, Exquemelin, whose vessel anchored at that lagoon in 1671. One morning several women slaves from this buccaneer vessel were attacked by a group of Indians and pierced by a great number of arrows. The latter were made of palm wood, 8 feet in length (5 to 6 feet according to the French edition), round in section and of the thickness of a thumb. They were tipped with sharp points of flint which were tied firmly into the arrow together with a wooden hook, so that the arrow point presented a harpoonlike appearance; the other extremity ended in a point. Other arrows had at the distal end a small wooden box, 1 foot long, filled with round pebbles, evidently in order to increase the power of the arrow. The Indians had been careful enough to put some leaves in this box in order to reduce the noise produced by the pebbles upon shooting the arrow off. Some of these arrows were painted red (Exquemelin, Engl. edit.: 247–248; Span. edit.: 446; French edit.: II, 257–258).

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There is no record of these Indians affixing feathers to their arrows, nor is there any other method known among them to guide their direction.

Nowadays the Miskito do not make use of bow and arrow, except for fishing. The elder Sumu still prefer these arms for hunting, as they do not make any noise and do not scare the game in the neighborhood as is the case with firearms. The lower end of the arrow is seized with the thumb and forefinger of the right hand, while the left hand is placed upon the bow and serves to direct the arrow and help in spanning the bow also.

Bow.—The bow (M.: *pantamañka;* T., P.: *las;* U.: *sibañ oka* "arrow house") is made of the hard wood of the pejivalle palm or of the cortes (*Tecoma chrysantha* DC.). It is roughly polished and flattened, with a rectangular or oblong cross section. It is widest in the center (about 1 inch) and becomes gradually narrower toward both extremities. It is of uniform thickness—that is, about a quarter of an inch—while the length varies from 4 to 5 feet. The bowstring (M.: *pantamañka awa;* T., P.: *las wahni;* U.: *sibañ wahka*), which is made of silk-grass fiber, is fastened to the tips at both extremities of the bow and is always kept rigid.

Arrows in general.—The arrow (M.: *trisba;* S.: *sibañ, sikarna*), like the bow, is made of the wood of the pejivalle palm. It is always round in section and of nearly uniform thickness; at the front end, however, it is gradually tapering and terminates in a point. The other extremity is inserted into a shaft of wild cane and firmly held in place with the aid of silk-grass fiber. In the distal end of the hollow shaft small pieces of wood are inserted, and then likewise some thread is wound round tightly in order to avoid splitting or any other damage liable to be caused by friction against the bowstring. Native beeswax (M.: *blas;* S.: *balas*) is applied to the string; it acts as a cement and protects the latter from sun and rain, which would cause it to become slack.

The wild cane (M.: *yahurus;* S.: *dapa*), which is to be used for arrow shafts, is cut immediately after flowering—that is, about August or September. The upper part or flower stalk only is employed. It is first placed in the fire for a few minutes in order to render it more pliable and facilitate the straightening of it. The Indians carefully test the straightness and balance of the reed by looking along it while held at arm's length. After this operation the cane is left to dry and harden in the sun. The reeds are then tied in bundles and kept under the house rafters, over the smoke of the fire, until needed; this makes them immune from boring insects and worms.

Fishing arrows.—There are various sorts of arrows. The simplest one, called *slauni* by the Miskito and Creoles and *sikarna* by the Sumu (*pan subañ* in the dialect of Rio Patuca), which is only

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411 used for fishing, consists merely of a shaft of wild cane into which a sharply pointed foreshaft of pejivalle wood, hardened in the fire, has been inserted and firmly tied as stated above. The latter is smoothed with the aid of a machete or large knife, which tools are used after the manner of a carpenter's plane. This kind of arrow is the largest one found on the Mosquito Coast, and it may reach 6 feet in length. Occasionally it is jagged on either side into more or less definite barbs. The arrow does not sink, owing to the feather-light shaft, which will always rise to the surface. On the Mosquito Coast the use of this arrow has also spread to some of the Creoles and Ladinos.

HUNTING ARROWS.—The hunting arrow (M.: *trisba;* S.: *sibaŭ*) measures only 5 feet in length, as the shaft of wild cane is considerably shorter than in the one used for fishing. Unlike the latter, the hardwood foreshaft is not pointed, but a piece of iron or steel made from barrel hoops or other scrap iron is inserted in front. The latter is lanceolate in shape and has sharp edges. As the art of melting metal is unknown to these Indians, they make these arrow points with the aid of files. According to Exquemelin (Engl. edit.: 251), the Miskito in 1671 used iron points or alligator teeth to tip their arrows. Flint, obsidian, turtle shell, sharp fishbone, and shark teeth [47] were also used for this purpose in former days. Barbed arrows and trident or composite arrow heads are now unknown.

BIRD ARROWS.—For birds and small animals the Indians make use of small arrows with blunt knobs of hardwood or beeswax, called *uru* by the Miskito and *ubo* or *ubur* by the Sumu. With these arrows they seldom kill, but merely stun the game, so that they can capture it alive. They are also used in the houses to scare away dogs, pigs, and fowls without being compelled to get up from the seat.

QUIVERS.—Quivers (M.: *trisba taya* "arrow skin") were apparently of ceremonial use only, and they were employed to carry the arrows during the festivals. They were made of red deerskin, as is indicated by their Sumu name (T.: *sana untak;* P.: *sana onitak;* U.: *sana okatak*). At the present time quivers have disappeared entirely, and the arrows are always carried in the hand by the hunter.

FIREARMS.—The buccaneers of the latter half of the seventeenth century apparently introduced firearms among the Miskito.[48] In

171 [47] The Rama still employ shark teeth to tip their hunting arrows, and they claim that a wound caused with such an arm will almost invariably be fatal.

175 [48] It is possible that firearms were already introduced among the Miskito at an earlier period, during the years 1630 to 1641, when the two islands of Providencia and Santa Catalina, situated off the Mosquito Coast, and now belonging to Colombia, were colonized by English Puritans. The latter opened friendly and commercial relations with the Miskito, who were living chiefly around Cabo Gracias a Dios and Sandy Bay in those days. In 1633 a certain Capt. Sussex

1: Conzemius M-4, 5 (1921) 1932
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recent times this arm has also spread to the Sumu. The Indians use muzzle-loading shotguns, called *raks* or *rakbus* by the Miskito and *arakbus* or *arakbas* by the Sumu. These names are evidently of European origin and are taken from the English "harquebus" or the French "arquebuse," or perhaps the Spanish "arcabuz." Powder is known by its English name (*pâûtar*), but shot, which is generally kept in the small *pispis* bottle gourd (*Lagenaria lagenaria*), is spoken of by the Indians as the "eggs of the shotgun" (M.: *raks mabra;* S.: *arakbus suma*). Double-barreled guns (M.: *raks sutki;* S.: *arakbus sutki*, that is, "twin guns") are also occasionally met with.

THE CHASE

SKILL IN HUNTING.—Game is very abundant in this sparsely inhabited part of Central America. The Indian is an excellent hunter; the keenness of his senses is marvelous and nothing escapes his eyes. Every sound is noticed and understood, and the distance and the direction whence any noise proceeds is estimated with surprising accuracy. The Indian has a marvelous instinct which permits him to discover with great ease the footprints of animals and then determine the species to which they belong. He pursues the game through the thicket with the sagacity of the bloodhound.

A MALE OCCUPATION.—The wife never accompanies her husband on the actual hunt, where she would be in his way, for she does not learn to handle any arms. When a number of men organize a hunting party, expected to last more than a day, they may be accompanied by the members of their family. Arrived at a place said to be rich in game, they erect temporary sheds, wherefrom they undertake smaller expeditions in different directions. The hunters start out early in the morning, and before nightfall they rejoin the women and children, who have been left behind at the provisional ranch. The best time for hunting is in the morning before 9 o'clock and in the evening after

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Camock, a member of that Puritan colony, appears to have founded a settlement at Cabo Gracias a Dios. Having gained the confidence of the Indians, the son of one of their most important chiefs was taken to England, where he remained two years, a certain Colonel Morris remaining as hostage among the Indians. Some of these Indians went occasionally to Providencia, where they learned English and were instructed in the Christian religion (Sloan, a: pp. LXXVI-LXXVII; Bridges: II, 138–139). In 1641 this Puritan colony, which by that time had found it more profitable to take up privateering than to pursue the peaceable occupation of farming, was stamped out by a Spanish expedition; the settlers then left for other regions, chiefly to the Bahama Islands.

According to Exquemelin (French edit.: II, 277), who wrote in 1678, the first buccaneers, a French vessel, anchored at Cabo Gracias a Dios 60 years previously—that is, about 1618—and entered into friendly relations with the Indians; the buccaneers would seem, therefore, to have been the first Europeans with whom the Miskito became friendly.

2: Kirchhoff E-4 (no date) 1948
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Maize is believed to be unimportant except in the higher lands, e.g., among the *Ulva*. The *Jicaque* grow it as a commercial crop but do not use it extensively as food. Pineapples are important to the *Paya*. Chili peppers and opuntia, the latter used for raising cochineal, a dye-producing insect, appear to be recent introductions. Plants introduced by the Europeans vary in importance, but plantain is now one of the most basic foods of the region. Quantities of wild foods of all kinds form an important part of the diet.

Hunting.—The bow and arrow was once important to many tribes but has been partially or wholly replaced by the gun. The bow has not been reported from the Corn Islands. Spears or javelins were formerly used for hunting. Slings, traps, and snares were used prinicipally for birds. For the blowgun, see page 224.

List of Foods Grown by the People in the Caribbean Lowlands:

American origin:
- Sweet manioc.
- Bitter manioc.
- Maize.
- Pejivalle (pejibaye) palm.
- Sweetpotato.
- Eddoe (tania).
- Gourd.
- Pumpkin.
- Squash.
- Chayote.
- Tomato.
- Bean (red and black).
- Pineapple.
- Tobacco.
- Cotton.
- Achiote (*Bixa orellana*).
- Cacao.
- Pataste.
- Papaya.
- Avocado.
- Guava.
- Chirimoya.
- Zapote.
- Coconut.
- Usi.
- Ficus.
- Yam.
- Opuntia.
- Peanuts.

Foreign Origin:
- Rice.
- Sugarcane.
- Coffee.
- Mango.
- Breadfruit.
- Tamarind.
- Citrus fruits.
- Plantain.
- Banana.

Hunting is exclusively a male occupation. Communal hunts lasting several days and hunting by torchlight have been reported. Dogs are used frequently to chase the game. Hunters may imitate the calls of animals, sometimes using bone whistles.

Fishing.—Women fish with hooks, which were originally made of bone. Men fish in groups of varying sizes. Fish are shot with the bow and arrow, speared with single- or multipronged spears, taken with traps of various types, or frightened so that they jump into canoes. Torches are used at night to attract the fish. Fish are poisoned by parties of men. Women and men whose wives are pregnant or menstruating cannot join such expeditions (*Jicaque*). Rotenone-bearing plants are crushed in the water above a weir from which the stupefied fish are removed.

2: Kirchhoff E-4 (no date) 1948
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Both the *Paya* and the *Northern Sumo* occasionally use elaborately carved metates and well-made manos obtained at ancient ruins. The *Mosquito* made large wooden mortars and single-ended or, more rarely, double-ended pestles.

Tools used for working wood and for fashioning many miscellaneous articles were: Scrapers made of fish teeth, turtle shells, or stone and knives made of split bamboo. Three-legged wooden stools were formerly richly carved, often having a bird or animal head. Spoons, ladles, cradles, and the like are also made of wood. Gourds are often engraved with simple geometrical designs (pl. 36, *bottom*).

Weapons.—*Mosquito, Sumo,* and *Jicaque* bows are 4 to 5 feet (1.3 to 1.6 m.) long, *Paya* specimens 6 feet (2 m.) long. They taper toward the ends and are rectangular in cross section. Killing arrows have a cane shaft and palm-wood foreshaft. Points of flint, obsidian, turtle shell, fishbone, and shark and alligator teeth were being replaced by iron ones as early as 1678 (Exquemelin, 1678). Arrows are not feathered. According to Exquemelin, the arrows used about the Laguna de Bluefields (*Kukra*) were 6 to 8 feet (2 to 2.6 m.) long with a flint tip and a wooden hook (possibly some type of barb?). Some arrows were weighted with pebbles. Stunning arrows have blunt knobs made of hard wood or beeswax.

The *Ulva* and *Paya* make blowguns, possibly only toys, from a reed 18 inches (45 cm.) long. These shoot wax pellets. The blowgun is, even among Hispanicized *Jicaque,* an effective weapon. It is bored from a branch of a certain tree, and clay pellets are carefully made by means of a gage (Von Hagen, 1943, pp. 50–52). The *Mosquito* and *Sumo* probably used the blowgun, but present information is not precise.

Arrow poison has been reported from some *Mosquito* tribes. Bancroft says that this was made from the juice of *Hippomane mancinella.* Conzemius did not observe this tree in the territory but mentions the possibility that the secretions from a frog (*Dendrobates tinctorius*) may have been used. The former poison is used by the *Carib,* and both types are used by the *Cuna* and *Chocó.*

POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

Little is known of the aboriginal organization of these tribes. Both chiefs and shamans had great power. Local governments now control the villages, but during the Conquest these tribes were organized for war in various ways. Chiefs were elected by the elderly men and their power was supreme. The office was not hereditary, but among the *Mosquito* a nephew or son-in-law of a chief might succeed him. The whole *Mosquito* tribe, under British guidance, was united and ruled by a "king" who carried as insignia a staff and a gold or silver breastplate.

2: Kirchhoff E-4 (no date) 1948
SA15 Mosquito SA15

142
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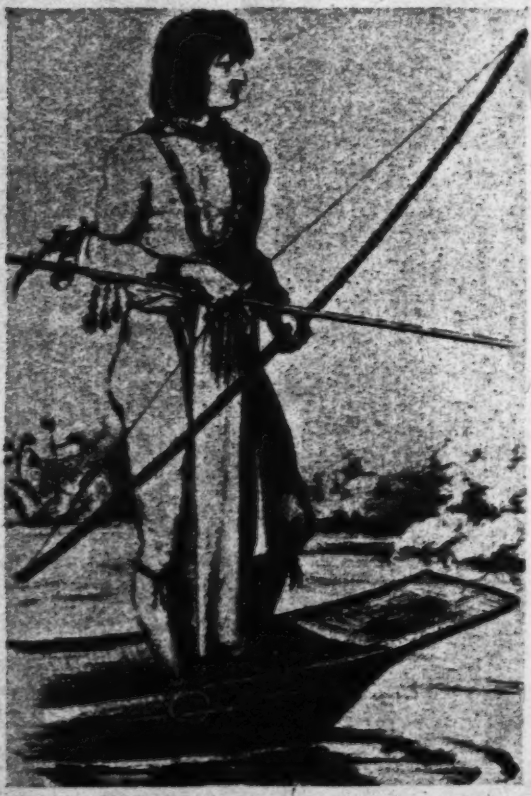

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PLATE 35.—Sumo and Mosquito Indians, Nicaragua. *Top: Sumo* man. *Bottom: Mosquito* village, Pearl Lagoon. (Courtesy American Museum of Natural History.)

[p. 228-A]